



PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

Volume 3 2011

PTHA Hosts PA Secretary of Ag at Parx



PA Secretary of Agriculture George Greig (center) is joined by PTHA President Sal DeBunda (left) and Racing Commission Director Daniel Tufano in the Parx Racing barn area May 18.



(l to r) Sal DeBunda, PA Racing Commissioner Jeb Hannum, Secretary of Agriculture George Greig, PTHA board members Ed Lehman and John Servis, and PA Breeders' President Brian Sanfratello during Greig's visit to Parx.

Members of the PTHA board, PA Racing Commission and PA Breeders invited PA Secretary of Agriculture George Greig to Parx Racing last month to demonstrate how important the racing industry is to the State's agricultural industry.

Greig viewed a presentation by Let's Go Racing producer Bruce Casella of the PTHA's campaign titled "I Have A Job," which demonstrates through radio, billboard and television ads the number of jobs racing

provides for Pennsylvania residents. Casella also showed Greig the Turning For Home video, which proves the importance of caring for retired racehorses and moving them to second careers.

The afternoon concluded with a tour of the new barns, with Executive Director Mike Ballezzi introducing Greig to the day-to-day operations of a number of the trainers on the Parx backside.

"The importance of Thoroughbred racing to the State's economy and preservation of Green Space is very important," said Greig. "I look forward to returning to the track for the Pennsylvania Derby in September."



Meeting in the board room to review the new PTHA ad campaign. Mike Ballezzi speaks on the importance of racing to the state's agriculture.

McDermott Retires After 35 Years with PA Breeders

On June 1, a new era began for the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders' Association—one without the services of longtime Executive Director Mark McDermott.

McDermott, who has spent the last 35 years leading the Breeders' through major racing and breeding industry changes, will retire just as the growth spurt due to casino revenue has finally put the Commonwealth on par with states like Kentucky and Florida.

"I have always seen breeding as a function of racing," said McDermott. "And not many breeders acknowledge that. If you can absorb four years of no return on your investment, then being a breeder is a

good thing."

"The racing program in PA is so well financed as a result of the whole industry working together," said McDermott. "There are so many neat people in this business -- many that are eternally optimistic about what we can accomplish."

McDermott began his career working at the Fair Grounds, and had been editor of the Louisiana Horse magazine before moving on to the Daily Racing Form in Hightstown, NJ. Award winning horseracing journalist, Steve Haskin, who was Daily Racing Form librarian at the time, said McDermott holds a true passion for PA-breds. (cont. page 2)



Mark McDermott (r) making the winner's circle presentation at Keystone Racetrack with M. W. Jenney for Maui Meadows' 1980 Pennsylvania Futurity victory with T.V. Alliance.

President's Message

Dear Members of the PTHA:

There are many changes going on in our industry right now—and as usual, along with change comes the need to step up to the plate and make some hard decisions, and most importantly – be active in the decision making process that results in these changes.

Our horsemen are not new to this idea: many of you have had to clean out your barns of lesser stock, invest in better horses in order to keep your stalls and compete for the higher purses that Parx racing now offers. It was not easy for the smaller outfits, but most of you have worked hard to stay in business and adjust to the changes that were necessary to improve our product and secure your futures.

Many Parx trainers have learned recently that changing old ways and taking the time to keep better records of your employees and independent contractors may be time consuming, but in the end will save money and keep the auditors away from your doors. Although we feel that barn operations at the track are often different from other industries, in the end we have found that running a stable is really not so different—in the eyes of the government.

On the horizon is a very big change, that, if approved, will drastically affect Thoroughbred racing: the discussion of banning race day medication, specifically Lasix, has been brought up by national groups including the RCI, the AAEP, and the NTRA. The PTHA is keeping abreast of everything that is happening toward that end. Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and I will be involved with all other horsemen's groups and racetrack executives to educate those who believe that medication abuse is widespread. We hope to show that of all the states, Pennsylvania is on the cutting edge of medication detection technology. You can read more about these issues in my letter on page 5.

The look of our backstretch has been slow to change, but be assured that the demolition and rebuilding of the new barns is going along smoothly now that the winter is past. We ask for everyone's patience down near the receiving barn as we are near completion of Barns 2 and 3, and fully expect to have finished four more barns by the end of 2011, making the total six for the year, and every year after that until all are completed.

After 35 years, the PA Horse Breeders' Association's Executive Director, Mark McDermott, retired June 1 after witnessing many industry changes. McDermott has been instrumental in changing the face of the PA-bred program, was an active participant in the long treks to Harrisburg when Act 71 was being written, and way before that when simulcasting "saved" racing in the early 90's. He has stood with us as the horsemen fought for bigger purses, and as the breeding program has become one of the best in the country. He will be sorely missed by all of us, and we wish him well.

This summer, the PTHA will celebrate its' third Owner's Appreciation Day. Scheduled for September 17, the festivities will include enhanced purses, gifts for owners and trainers running horses, and a special luncheon. Please mark your calendars for this event. We wish all of our members a successful summer, and hope to see you at "your" special day.

Your President



Salvatore M. DeBunda



(McDermott, continued from page 1)

"Mark and I go way back to the 1970s at the Daily Racing Form," said Haskin. "He is one of the sharpest people I know, and extremely witty, with an edge to it that I always liked."

"I'll never forget the day he called me about a freaky horse he had witnessed at Philadelphia Park, telling me that he could be something special. His reasoning was simple...for Mark. He told of a resident squirrel that used to haunt the paddock and would walk right up to the people looking for a handout. One day, a 2-year-old chestnut colt named Smarty Jones strutted into the paddock. When the squirrel came over to check him out, Smarty, as Mark put it, 'jumped straight into the air, with all four legs off the ground at the same time. He turned his body in mid-air and lashed out with his hind legs, then calmly went about his business.'"

"Mark said it was the most athletic move he had ever seen by a horse. Smarty then went out to the track and won the PA Nursery by 15 lengths, gets a 105 Beyer figure," said Haskin. "I had not heard from Mark in awhile until that phone call, and when I heard that exuberant 'Hask!' I knew something had him excited. Six months later, Mark's discovery had the entire country excited."

McDermott has approached his responsibilities as head of the PA

breeders with the same exuberance. "A big part of it is to help change attitudes so that everyone can exist together – but money is the driving force."

McDermott's long time relationship with the PTHA has been mutually gratifying.

"We learned long ago that the way to get things done in Harrisburg is to have everyone almost on the same side. The directors of each of the participating organizations need to have some history with each other," said McDermott. "Since Mike Ballezzi has been Executive Director of the PTHA, we have gained that camaraderie. There is no one in the back of the room now saying that something is not true—we are mostly all on the same page. We are grateful for the PTHA for stepping up and shoring up the PA-bred race program at Philadelphia Park, and doing it the right way—better races, and not subsidizing cheap horses."

Ballezzi, who has stood side by side with McDermott through many of the major changes to the industry, says the PA Breeders will have a hard time filling McDermott's shoes.

"Mark's knowledge of the racing industry, his personal integrity, and personal friendship will be missed, but his positive contributions to our industry will last forever," said Ballezzi.

Independent Contractors, Some Common Sense Guidelines

By Michael Colucci, CPA

This article is intended to provide information to the reader that will allow them to better understand who may be classified as an independent contractor and who should be classified as an employee. As attorneys like to say, each case has its unique facts and circumstances. The final decision will vary depending on how the rules are applied to those facts and circumstances.

IRS publishes guidelines (www.irs.gov) that will assist you or your advisor to make a determination as to whether the person is an employee or independent contractor. Facts that provide evidence of the degree of control and independence of the person providing the service fall into three categories.

1. **Behavioral**-Does the company control or have the right to control what the worker does and how the worker does his or her job?
2. **Financial**-Are the business aspects of the worker's job controlled by the payer? These things include how the worker is paid, whether expenses are reimbursed, who provides the tools and equipment, etc.
3. **Type of Relationship**-Are there written contracts? Are any benefits paid? Are sick days compensated for? Is there any vacation time accrued and paid for?

Businesses must weigh all these factors when determining whether a worker is an employee or independent contractor. Some factors may indicate that the worker is an employee, while others may indicate the worker is an independent contractor. There is no "magic" or set number of factors that makes the worker an employee or independent contractor.

Some ideas to consider. Independent contractors generally have a separate workplace, are not supervised while working and generally offer their services to other organizations. They may advertise their services. And, they are usually paid a flat fee by the job or project and, again, generally not paid by an hourly, daily, weekly or monthly rate.

If you do determine that your people who work or provide services to you are, in fact, independent contractors, you should have that worker fill in a W-9 Form (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification) preferably before the work starts. And, at the end of the year, provide that worker with a form 1099-MISC (a copy of which is filed with Internal Revenue Service).

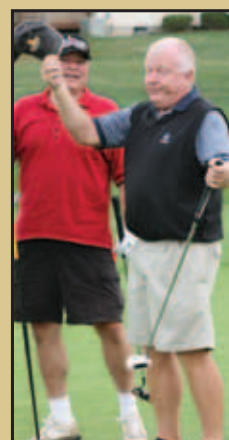
This article is intended to give a brief overview and guidelines of items to consider when classifying workers as employees or independent contractors. Each business person should consult with their own attorneys and tax advisors who can judge the facts and circumstances in your individual case and make a determination.

THANK YOU MARK McDERMOTT FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Best Wishes
& Happy Retirement!**



Then



Now



Bob Sickles and Officer Ed Salamon accept the PTHA's donation of equipment for the Philadelphia Mounted Patrol from Vicky Mangini and Cathy Somers of the Horsemen's Purchasing store. The PTHA will continue its' support of the new unit, hoping to eventually place suitable retired horses from Turning For Home.



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summer & fall stakes schedule 2011

DATE	PURSE			
Sat. 6/11	\$200,000	JOSTLE STAKES	Fillies, 3yo	6F
Sat. 6/18	\$200,000	PARX DASH	3yo & up	5F(T)
Sat. 6/25	\$200,000	DONALD LEVINE MEMORIAL HCP.	3yo & up	7F
Mon. 7/4	\$200,000	DR. JAMES PENNY MEMORIAL HCP.	F & M, 3yo & up	1 1/16 M (T)
Sat. 7/16	\$200,000	GREENWOOD CUP	3 & up	1 1/2 M
Mon. 9/5	\$300,000	SMARTY JONES HCP.	3yo	1M & 70 Yds.
	\$350,000	TURF MONSTER HCP. GR.III	3yo & up	5F (T)
	\$200,000	TURF AMAZON HCP.	F & M, 3yo & up	5F (T)
Sat. 9/17	\$250,000	PTHA PRESIDENT'S CUP	3yo & up	1 1/8 M (T)
Sat. 9/24	\$1,000,000	PENNSYLVANIA DERBY GR.II	3yo	1 1/8 M
	\$250,000	GALLANT BOB STAKES	3yo	6F
Sat. 10/1	\$750,000	COTILLION STAKES GR.II	Fillies, 3yo	1 1/16 M
	\$150,000	BRANDYWINE STAKES	Fillies, 2yo	7F

Check Out Graduates of the PTHA's Turning for Home
www.patha.org -- Click on Turning For Home

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PTHA MEMBERS

May 20, 2011

Dear PTHA Member:

I'd like to bring our membership up to date on some very important recent events regarding racing's medication policies. On March 28, 2011 the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI), issued a press release asking the racing industry and its member regulators to support their proposal to phase out race day medication over the next five years.

Currently, furosemide (Lasix) and the adjunct medications used to prevent bleeding (EIPH), are the only race day medications allowed in the United States.

RCI was originally organized in 1934 and has a current membership of 38 states and 9 territories or countries, and many associate memberships from around the world. It was formed to "encourage forceful and honest nationwide control of racing for the protection of the public." Today the RCI office in Lexington, Kentucky, receives for circulation hundreds of rulings a week, with medication issues one of the most important to the industry.

Although the PTHA is not a member, we have been invited to join the with Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's member jurisdictions to deal with this issue. I recently attended a meeting in Baltimore with the THA board and will be working to monitor the situation.

Upon recommendation from the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) which develops model rules for uniform drug testing and regulation, it was announced on May 12 that an International Race Day Medication Summit has been scheduled for June 13 and 14 in New York City, sponsored by the AAEP, NTRA and the RMTC. Racing representatives from around the world will discuss topics including regulation of race day medications, and veterinary and trainer viewpoints on the management of EIPH.

Last month, The Interstate Horse Racing Improvement Act of 2011, was introduced by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM). Expected to be introduced in the House by Representative Ed Whitfield (R-KY). The bill asserts that the "use of performance enhancing drugs is widespread in the United States where no uniform regulations exist with respect to the use of, and testing for, performance enhancing drugs in interstate horse racing."

The Bill then indicates that performance-enhancing drugs adversely affect interstate commerce, create unfair competition, deceive horse buyers and the wagering public, weakens the breed of the American Thoroughbred, is detrimental to international sales of the American Thoroughbred, and threatens the safety and welfare of horses and jockeys."

Based on this assertion, the Bill is structured to penalize horses that are under the influence of performance-enhancing drugs and to penalize those who "provide" performance-enhancing drugs to those animals. Penalties escalate, including fines and suspensions, and carry a "three strikes and you're out" provision. As noted, the legislation would include the suspension of horses that are provided with performance-enhancing drugs. For the first violation, the suspension is for a period of 100 days from racing, one year for the second violation, and two years for the third violation.

Most of the horse racing industry is against this legislation and it probably faces a difficult road ahead for passage, but it does set forth the mind-set that we need to deal with as horsemen and demonstrates the need for us to better educate the Federal and State legislatures and our Racing Commissions about the type of testing that is already done in our industry. Here again, we will continue to monitor this legislation and to report any significant events to you as they occur.

Very truly yours,



Salvatore M. DeBunda, President

Casino Expansion Assures Parx “Destination Site” Status

In spite of the fact that casino revenue at Parx was down by 18% in January, Deputy Chairman William Hogwood attributed the drop to the harsh winter weather, and plans for full expansion of Parx West are right on schedule.

“It was the worst winter we have had in years,” he said. “Every two or three days we were hit with more snow, and people just did not come out of their homes.”

Parx, regularly the leader among the Commonwealth’s casinos, is back at the top again according to the gross revenue reported by the Pennsylvania Gaming and Control Board for March, April and the first two weeks in May.

Hogwood says the expansion of the casino on Street Road is “being driven, rather than us driving,” a result of the competitive market demanding more of the gambling industry.

“When legislation was passed for table games and poker, we had to get moving quickly,” he said recently. “The first step was moving out of the racetrack to the new building, and second, addressing the need for more and more in order to reach our goal as a ‘destination.’ We have become restricted by our size.”



The fence covering on Smarty Jones Way between the racetrack and Parx Casino allows glimpses of the new casino expansion project. The expansion will shorten the walkway between the two buildings, further encouraging fans to enjoy both venues.



Casino expansion on the backside of the building will extend out closer to the racetrack, and allows access via tunnel for food and supply shipment to the casino.



Parx East entrance will soon feature a 65’ TV with modern graphics and racing images. The building’s new color scheme matches the casino.

Peek holes in the colorful enclosure along Smarty Jones Way, the walkway from the racetrack to the casino, allow the many guests who frequent both racetrack and casino to monitor 40,000 feet of expansion, including a tunnel for equipment and food service delivery access is rising from what initially was to be hotel and shopping space.

“When the expansion project is finished, the distance between the casino and racetrack grandstand will be much shorter, which we had in mind all along,” said Hogwood. “We are seeing more and more people on Smarty Jones Way going back and forth between the two.”

In further efforts to tie both Parx East - the racetrack and Parx West - the casino together, the outside of the track has been covered with the same Mondrian beige, clay and off-white color and rectangular shape scheme. The harsh winter winds tore the initial covering which is now replaced with a gauze cover, and a 65 foot color television will be affixed to the street side of the building.

“We will have colorful graphics and moving horseracing imagery that will attract people’s attention as they drive by,” said Hogwood. He also indicated that the current tote board in the infield will soon be replaced with a state-of-the-art LED display, which will offer much more than just the odds. Plans are for the new board to be in place by Breeders’ Cup.

He added that with 450 acres, plans are to continue landscaping to create a beautiful green area around the casino and track, which will be a scenic green space very close to Philadelphia.

While the new outside improvements changing the look of the racetrack, Hogwood is optimistic that the Parx racing product is better, too.

“Joe (Wilson) and his team are always looking at how we can improve the racing product,” said Hogwood. “We feel the backstretch renovation project, when finished, will attract better trainers and owners. With Mike Ballezzi’s input on the design of the new barns, they are really coming along.

“With the environmental issues now out of the way, things will happen faster now.”



LOOK AT THE SAVINGS PTHA MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED!*



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Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

This may be my last Chaplain's Corner.

I've been driving by a billboard that has a countdown to May 21, 2011. Personally I am counting down to June 21st – the first day of summer.

The message about May 21, 2011 is being broadcasted on a lot more than just billboards and the message is that this day is going to be the Final Judgment Day. The day when God will begin the final destruction of this world and bring the saved to heaven is, according to some, going to be May 21, 2011. I guess there are a lot of such predictions going around because when this is mentioned I often hear talk about other dates from other people and calendars. In fact the same person who is publishing and declaring the May 21, 2011 prediction made the same claim back in 1994. I remember because at the time I was a parish pastor and it had a lot of people worked up.

I also know that this message is being widely broadcast because I am asked about it a lot. It has gotten me thinking. You know the Church has been looking forward to Jesus' coming back for a long time. An old and traditional greeting among early Christians was, "Maranatha." It is an Aramaic word that is an exclamation meaning, "Our Lord, come!"

But, will our Lord come on May 21, 2011 in judgment? When I am asked that part of me is saying, "I hope so." Part of me is saying, "The sooner the better." Part of me is saying, "I don't know and I don't think from how I understand Jesus' answer to the same question that anyone can know."

The other answer that I have given over and over again to similar questions is that no one knows even how today will end. The Bible book of James

declares, "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow...you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that'" (James 4:14-15). For all I know today may be my judgment day, because any of a host of things could happen to cause my untimely demise. But, if I have put my faith in the work of the Lord on the Cross and believe He rose on Easter morning it won't so much be a judgment day as it will be, by grace, a rewards day!

Now most people see me as a glass is half full kind of guy and I can't help but be hopeful that all this talk about judgment day could get me and you to, "Live Like You Were Dying", as Tim McGraw puts it in the song by that name. The song is about a guy who gets some bad medical test results and starts making the most of each opportunity of each day. One of my favorite lines is:

*"I loved deeper and I spoke sweeter,
And I gave forgiveness I'd been denying.
An' he said: 'Some day, I hope you get the chance,
'To live like you were dyin'."*

Well there is a lot more that I have to say on this very subject. If this isn't my last Chaplain's Corner I look forward to sharing more next time. Until next time, whenever, wherever, "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 15:54-58 (NIV) "Death has been swallowed up in victory...He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

PTHA'S THIRD ANNUAL OWNER'S APPRECIATION DAY

SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

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trainers, owners and grooms who
have horses racing.***



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The PTHA's TURNING FOR HOME PAGE



TFH's Mission for the Month:

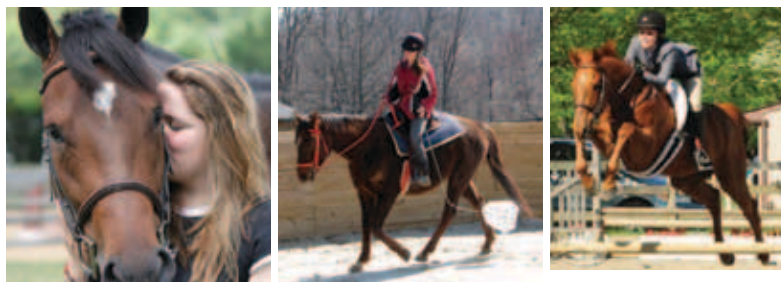
Dispel the myth that mares are tough to deal with!

GOTHAM NEL (above left with young friend Sabrina), is just three-years-old, almost 17 hands and was placed into our program by Parx trainer John Sketchley. Affectionately called the "gentle giant" by adopter Tamara D'Addabbo, Nel will be trained by international event rider Holly Payne. Both women are hoping for her to be the one that can compete at the highest levels and take Holly to the Olympics! Tamara saw through past filly's gangly legs and poor racetrack performance and fell in love with her at first sight. She is maintaining a blog on Nel's progress (<http://www.firehorsefarmette@weebly.com>)--we are all watching for another Turning For Home star!

SAGAREDGO (right) is a four-year-old daughter of Smoke Glacken who suffered a displaced fracture of her knee last November. Once again, Dr. Patty Hogan came to our rescue, and two screws and six months later, this classy filly was the perfect surprise gift for Madison Chamas for her 11th birthday on May 21, Madison takes lessons with dressage rider Jaime Topinka-Nunn (shown above), who was impressed with the perfect temperament and kind attitude the mare demonstrated. Dressed in ribbons and bows for the surprise party, "Sara," as she is called, looks like every little girl's dream!

"Madison and I both have the same birthday," said her Mom, Lee. "The best present I could have ever gotten was the look on her face when we surprised her with Sara!"

More Turning for Home Graduates



(From left) **Strong Inheritance**, adopted by Becky Turner of Bedford, NY; **Sun Hunter** learns to be a therapeutic riding mount at Copper Kettle Farm in Pottstown; **Red Alert** over fences at his first show with adopter Ryann Chrigo, who said he "power housed" all the jumps!"

MARK THIS DATE

Sept. 24
PA Derby
and

Alex Brown
here at Parx to
autograph his
new book
Greatness and
Goodness:
The Legacy of
Barbaro at TFH
booth

% of sales to
benefit TFH

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Rosamund S. Clark Fund

Rosamund S. Clark of PA and Florida is a racing fan and owner/breeder who has donated \$300,000 to Turning For Home for the care of our horses. This is a much appreciated gift, as we continue to receive 20 horses a month, many who need surgery and long-term rehab. TFH is dedicated to allowing all of the Parx retirees to receive the best chance at new careers, and Ms. Clark has helped greatly towards this end.

Greenwood Racing

Once again, Parx management has donated \$50,000 to Turning For Home. We thank William Hogwood and Bob Green for supporting our program and helping us to become a model for other racetracks.

Owners who have recently donated toward the retirement of their horses, beyond the \$10/start:

Lynch Racing, LLC
B-C Stables
Gretchen Waldkoenig
The Skiman Racing Stable
Larry Sargent
JC Squared Racing
Indian Mills Stock Farm

Private donors

Flying Scott Stables
Dr. Katherine Stewart
Debbie Ulmer
Nicholas Venore
Brooke Gentner
Wesley & Ruth Carver

& those who donated in the memory of friends who have passed:

Rocco Gabriella for **Bridget Sipp**
AFT Local 4277, Alberta
Hutton, Katherine and Dean Carberry,
Hugo and Elizabeth Englehardt,
Gerard and Joan Mangold for good friend and racing fan **Ed Gall, Sr.**

OWNER PROFILE: NICK SAPONARA

Despite growing up in Philadelphia, Nick Saponara's earliest racetrack memories were sewn at Delaware Park.

"I was ten years old and there were age restrictions at Garden State and Atlantic City so my dad would take me down to Delaware," he recalled.

Saponara, now 72, later graduated from North Catholic High School and joined the now defunct Philadelphia Bulletin's sports department in 1957.

Six years later he was enlisted to become the newspaper's handicapper and covered harness racing at Brandywine and Liberty Bell Park, now both venues for shopping.

"I'd start work early in the morning (for the Bulletin) and would get done early and go over to Garden State Park, which had a late post. This became part of my regular schedule," Saponara said with a smile.

After a stint in the harness racing business, he became involved with Thoroughbred racing, and currently has about 10 horses in training with Randy Allen, and a couple more with Ramon Preciado.

"I first met Nick after he purchased a horse at auction that I had prepped for the sale," said Allen. "The listed buyer was Club Risque, so out of curiosity one day, I happened to drive by one of the Club Risque bars and stopped in to see if it was the same people.

"It was, and I met Nick who asked if I ever saw anything that was out there to claim, to let him know."

That was six years ago, and in that time, Allen has made a couple of very successful claims for Saponara, including Flying Clipper and more recently, Miss Jasmine. Both earned over \$100,000 for their new owner.

Flying Clipper was a PA-bred which, after Allen dropped back in for \$5,000, climbed back up the claiming ladder, winning seven starts before being stricken by a serious bout of colic

"We all cried when he died," said Saponara.

Miss Jasmine was a gutsy claim out of a \$40,000 maiden race, and in spite of her difficult behavior, retired and was sold back to her breeder as a broodmare just this year.

By Craig Donnelly

Saponara understands the ups and downs of the business but has never wavered in his involvement, recently buying several Pennsylvania-bred juveniles which he owns entirely and in partnerships.

A couple in particular are well-bred, one by Officer and another by the very promising young stallion Pomeroy.

"We're really hopeful about them," he said.

Looking down the road a bit is what keeps all of us encouraged about the business, the hope that an unstarted prospect will develop into the horse of our dreams.

"Nick never misses a race," said Allen. "He has an absolute passion for the game."

Saponara has many interests, including traveling and sports, but one can't help but get the feeling that the track is where he is most at home.

"It's an exciting sport, a fun way to spend a day, that's the best part," he said.

What's the worst?

"Paying the bills."



Nick Saponara (left) of Club Risque and Randy Allen (far right) team up for a win at Parx with Miss Bauer on October 23, last year. Photo by EQUI-PHOTO.



**Whether you're stabled right here at Parx Racing,
or down for the day to saddle a horse,
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Backstretch Views



Congratulations are in order...

To proud parents Peter Meehan and his wife, Stefanie, whose first child, Emma Catherine, was born on April 9. Weighing in at 6 lbs., and 13 oz., she is the fourth grandchild of trainer Lou Linder, Jr., and his wife Dorothy, another great grandchild for Linder, Sr., and the first for Peter's parents, Carmel and Willy, who visited from their native Ireland for two weeks.



To Keith Lebaron, who saddled his 1,000th winner on May 15 with Calvin's Dream in Parx racing's 7th race. Owned by his wife, Susan, the 4-year-old was making his first start off the claim for Lebaron. Rosario Montanez was in the irons.
EQUI-PHOTO

To William Hedus, son of trainer Bill and his wife, Nicole.

The 23-year-old graduated from Penn State Abington in May with a degree in History. Although he spends time at the barn with his parents, William hopes to someday teach. His sister, Elizabeth, is finishing her freshman year from the same school.

Our thoughts are with...

The family and friends of Luis Santos, former jockey, exercise rider and hotwalker, who passed away recently. Chaplain Rick Bunker held a Celebration of Life in the Parx rec hall on May 21. Born in 1938, Santos had most recently worked for Frank Petrozzo, but had galloped horses previously for many of the trainers on our backstretch.

Bob Girard, husband of PTHA Board Member Lisa Allen. Prayers for a speedy recovery for you, Bob.

This year's Easter Celebration April 24..

The rainy weather did not put a damper on Chaplain Rick Bunker's Easter Party for the backstretch workers and their families on April 23. The rec hall on the Parx backside presented perfect hiding places for the 40 dozen hardboiled eggs that were prepared for the Easter egg hunt, while the Easter bunny was on hand to greet members of the families that arrived, many of the children in their Easter finery. Sponsored by the PTHA and the Racetrack Chaplaincy of America, with help from area churches and the Chaplain's host of reliable volunteers, holiday parties are also scheduled every Halloween and Christmas.

"The PTHA is always real good to us," said Chaplain Bunker. "They purchased food, prizes and giveaway items for all of the kids, and the local churches supplied us with 88 beautiful Easter baskets for the children."



He added special thanks to his volunteers: Molly and Joe Shallcross, Barbara Eldred, Pat Mutek, Tom Brooks, Jim and Jen Manero and Bobbie Enke. His wife, Kelly, and daughters Kimberly and Deborah joined in this year's party, as well.

Molly Shallcross, who had been secretary since the 1990s to Philadelphia Park Chaplains Nick Salios, Jack Cordell, and Bunker, announced her retirement on April 1, but will hopefully be returning to continue her excellent work organizing the many social functions of the Chaplain's office. We will all miss Molly, and hope she enjoys good health and a happy retirement!



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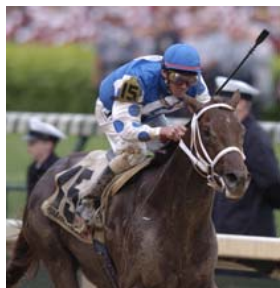
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